(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government found it fit to cancel all old licenses of mineral water companies and asked them to apply for fresh licenses after formulation of fresh standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No licence has been cancelled so far on the basis of failure of sample of Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water in pesticide residues.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Hearth and Family Welfare has issued a Gazette Notification GSR 554(E) dated 18th July, 2003 *vide* which the maximum residue limit of pesticide residues has been prescribeds in case in Packaged Drinking Water as per IS: 14543:1098. The notification will be effective from 1st January, 2004. Accordingly, an amendment No. 6 of October, 2003 has been issued by BIS to the Indian Standards Specification IS:14543:1998 to bring it in line with the above notification of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Accordingly, all the existing licenses have been informed by BIS on 13th August, 2003 for taking_appropriate action including ensuring the conformity of their product ot revised norms of pesticide residues. BIS has already started verification process to ensure the conformity of the products of its licensees to revised norms of pesticide residues for permitting continuation of their licences beyond 31st December, 2003.

Functioning of PDS

1749. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to improve the functioning of PDS in terms of quality of items supplied, prices, etc; and

(b) the details of the items distributed through the PDS, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Foodgrains issued to the State Government/UTs for

distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). Quality control measures such as joint sampling system etc. are also followed. Under TPDS the foodgrains are made available to the below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya families at highly subsidized rates of about 45% and 78% of the economic cost of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) respectively. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) for BPL families has not been revised after 25.7.2000.

(b) The Central Government is supplying wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution through the PDS. Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption such as cloth, exercise books, pulses, salt, tea etc. through the Fair Price Shops.

MSP to farmers of Orissa

1750. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops is now paid to the farmers of Orissa who have almost lost their livelihood as a result of consecutive natural calamities;

(b) if not, the crops for which the MSP is paid; and

(c) whether in addition to paddy, other crops are also collected by the FCI in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The MSPs for 14 crops including paddy are announced by the Government for the Khariff Season each year. The FCI Is undertaking price support operations only for paddy in Orissa.

BIS .satandards for mineral water

1751. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIS gave licences to Mineral Water Companies in accordance to the standards formulated by it;